

## Clinical Policy: Testing for Rupture of Fetal Membranes

Reference Number: LA.CP.MP.149

Date of Last Revision: 11/2021

Coding Implications  
Revision Log

See [Important Reminder](#) at the end of this policy for important regulatory and legal information.

### Description

Premature rupture of membranes is a complication in pregnancy that can lead to preterm delivery. The purpose of this policy is to define medical necessity criteria for testing for rupture of fetal membranes using AmniSure<sup>®</sup>, Actim<sup>®</sup> PROM and the ROM Plus Fetal Membranes Rupture Test for the diagnostic evaluation for premature rupture of membranes.

### Policy/Criteria

It is the policy of Louisiana Healthcare Connections that AmniSure, Actim PROM and the ROM Plus Fetal Membranes Rupture Test (tests billed with CPT<sup>®</sup> code 84112) are considered not medically necessary as they have not been shown to improve clinical outcomes over standard methods of diagnosis.

### Background

Preterm delivery is a major contributing factor to perinatal morbidity and mortality. According to the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) Practice Bulletin: Prelabor Rupture of Membranes, premature rupture of membranes (PROM) complicates approximately 2-3% of all pregnancies in the United States.<sup>1</sup> Membrane rupture prior to 37 weeks of gestation is referred to as preterm PROM. There are many pathologies that can influence PROM, although intraamniotic infection is commonly related to preterm PROM.<sup>1</sup>

PROM is diagnosed through several methods, including: (1) the visualization of amniotic fluid pooling in the vagina from the cervical canal; (2) a pH test of the vaginal fluid; (3) ferning of dried vaginal fluid through microscopic evaluation.<sup>1,9</sup> The pH of normal vaginal secretions is 3.8-4.5, whereas the pH of amniotic fluid is 7.1 – 7.3.<sup>9</sup> According to an ACOG Practice Bulletin, several commercially available tests for amniotic proteins report high sensitivity for PROM. However, false-positive test result rates of 19–30% have been reported in patients with clinically intact membranes and symptoms of labor. ACOG notes that the studies evaluating these protein tests are problematic because most of them use conventional clinical assessment (pooling, ferning, pH) as controls or gold standards for the diagnosis of rupture of membranes, calling into question their utility in equivocal cases.<sup>8</sup>

According to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, health care providers should not use these tests without other clinical assessments because of concerns about “misuse, overreliance, and inaccurate interpretation of lab test results from rupture of membranes tests used to detect rupture of membranes in pregnant women. These can lead to serious adverse events, including fetal death, infection, and other health complications in pregnant women.”<sup>9</sup>

Per ACOG, if the diagnosis remains unclear after a full evaluation, and if the benefits of the procedure outweigh the risks, membrane rupture can be diagnosed with ultrasonographically guided transabdominal instillation of indigo carmine dye, followed by the passage of blue-dyed fluid into the vagina, which is documented by a stained tampon or pad that is removed 20–30

minutes later. It is important to note that maternal urine also will turn blue or blue-green and should not be confused with amniotic fluid. Recent shortages of indigo carmine dye have complicated the availability of this procedure, and alternatives, such as fluorescein, have been suggested.<sup>8</sup>

The AmniSure test measures the presence of placental alpha macroglobulin-1 (PAMG-1) protein in the amniotic fluid using an immunochromatographic assay from a vaginal swab. This test has been reported to have a high sensitivity for detecting the PAMG-1 protein.<sup>2</sup> However, the clinical significance of the positive outcomes reported in other studies (evaluating women with term labor and women with preterm labor) should be measured against the small sample sizes (n= 125 and n=90), as well as high false positive rates of 19-30%.<sup>1,3</sup>

Actim PROM rapid test detects insulin-like growth factor binding protein-1 (IGFBP-1) present in amniotic fluid as a marker of the presence of amniotic fluid in a cervicogenic sample. IGFBP-2 is synthesized in the fetal liver and detected in the amniotic fluid throughout pregnancy and the rupture of membranes would cause its displacement. Recent studies utilizing this test have reported a sensitivity and a specificity to as low as 89.3 and 82.7%.<sup>5</sup> Moreover, the positive predictive value of the Actim test was determined to be less than that of the AmniSure test in a recent meta-analysis study.<sup>5</sup>

ROM Plus Fetal Membranes Rupture Test detects the presence of insulin-like growth factor binding protein-1 (IGFBP-1) and alpha fetoprotein (AFP) as markers of membrane rupture. To date, there is a paucity of published studies evaluating the clinical effectiveness of this test.

**Coding Implications**

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**CPT Codes considered Not Medically Necessary**

CPT® Codes	Description
84112	Evaluation of cervicovaginal fluid for specific amniotic fluid protein(s) (eg, placental alpha microglobulin-1 [PAMG-1], placental protein 12 [PP12], alpha-fetoprotein), qualitative, each specimen

**ICD-10-CM Diagnosis Codes that Support Coverage Criteria**

ICD-10-CM Code	Description
N/A	

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Revision Date	Approval Date
Converted corporate to local policy.	08/15/2020	
Annual review. Coding and references reviewed and updated. All instances of “member” replaced with “member/enrollee.” Changed “review date” in the header to “date of last revision” and “date” in the revision log header to “revision date.” Reviewed by specialist.	11/11/2021	

**References**

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Risks associated with use of rupture of membranes tests—letter to health care providers. U.S. Food and Drug Administration. <https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/letters-health-care-providers/risks-associated-use-rupture-membranes-tests-letter-health-care-providers>. Current as of August 9, 2018. Accessed May 21, 2021.

**Important Reminder**

This clinical policy has been developed by appropriately experienced and licensed health care professionals based on a review and consideration of currently available generally accepted standards of medical practice; peer-reviewed medical literature; government agency/program

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**CLINICAL POLICY**  
**Rupture of Fetal Membranes Testing**



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